



N^o 33. Friday, March 31.

— bene paria tueri.



Having been very unjustly charged with *Disaffection* to his Majesty, and *ill-will* to some of his *Ministers*; I am resolved to use my utmost Endeavours to demonstrate the contrary; for as no Time or Circumstances shall ever abate that ardent Zeal and passionate Devotion, which I have always express'd and exerted for the *Protestant Succession* in the present Royal Family; so I will never withhold that just Tribute of Praise, which *Those*, who have the Honour to be employ'd in the Administration, shall at any Time deserve.

I cannot therefore neglect the present Opportunity of doing *those Gentlemen* Justice, by endeavouring to remove those uneasy Thoughts and never-ceasing Fears, which the People of these Kingdoms have been observed to entertain for the Preservation of GIBRALTAR; for though I cannot, upon any Account, blame the Vigilance and Jealousy of my Countrymen, for their undoubted Rights, Privileges and Acquisitions; yet I hope to convince them that their Apprehensions are entirely groundless and imaginary.

In the present Scene of Affairs, the Eyes of all *Europe*, as well as of these Kingdoms, seem to be fixed, with different Views, on that *invaluable Fortress*; and on the Issue of those Hostilities, which are now carrying on before it; for the Event of which the Heart of every honest *Briton* is manifestly alarm'd and agitated with a Variety of different Passions.

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But as it is generally acknowledg'd by the best Judges, and has been often publicly declared, to be utterly *impregnable* in itself by any *outward Force*; so we may rest assured, from the following Considerations, that it will never be tamely given up, either in an *open* or *clandestine* Manner.

For, as it was obtained by our Arms, according to the strictest Law of Nations, in open War; and yielded to us by a solemn Treaty of Peace; so has it since been confirm'd to us by many subsequent Treaties, and all the considerable Powers of *Europe* became Guarantees for it; nay, *Spain* itself, by acceding to the *Quadruple Alliance*, became a Guarantee; and relinquish'd all Pretensions to it in Virtue of any *Promise* that might have been given, which was *previous* to that Treaty; and indeed it is the only valuable Benefit, that we have received for all that immense Profusion of Blood and Treasure, which has tailed upon us such an heavy Burthen of *Debts* and *Taxes*.

As to a late pretended *Promise of Restitution*, which the King of *Spain* insists on, enough has been said, by a Person of great Weight and Authority, to convince the World, that it was only a *ministerial Promise*; and therefore not *obligatory*; but even supposing it otherwise, I cannot help thinking it more advisable even to break our Word, for once, with our Neighbours, (as they have frequently done with us) than to give up a Place of the utmost Consequence to this Kingdom against the united Voice of the whole People.

Especially, if it be farther consider'd, that as it is not probable *Spain* should give us an Equivalent; so the vigorous Defence and Preservation of it seems to be the chief, if not the only Reason, that can make the People easy under those extraordinary Expences, which have been already incurr'd, and will be farther incurr'd by our present *Misunderstanding* (for I

am

am not yet allowed to call it a *War*) with our Neighbours.

I hope the projected *Invasion* and Attempt, in Favour of the *Pretender*, is now pretty well blown over; and as to the Affair of *Ostend*, tho' the *Abolition* of that Charter is, no doubt, of some Consequence to the *East-India* Company, and perhaps to the Nation; yet it cannot, upon any Account, be brought in Competition with a Place, upon which so much depends, not only in relation to all our beneficial *Trade* in general, but likewise on other Considerations; for however necessary or advantageous our *East-India* Trade may be, whilst other Nations carry on a Traffick to those Parts; yet I believe it will not be denied, that if all the States of *Europe* would unanimously agree to leave it off by consent, it would be for the common Interest of them all.

Let that be as it will, the *Ostend Company* does not seem to be of so much Importance, either to *Great-Britain* or to the *Empire* as to engage us in an expensive War about it; and therefore I should not, in the least, doubt of seeing a speedy Accommodation of that Affair, provided it were the only Matter left in Dispute.

I cannot therefore but look on *Gibraltar* as the chief Occasion of all our late Differences with our Neighbours; as it is the *only Point*, about which we can be *essentially* concerned in the impending War; and therefore it is ridiculous to surmise, that, after we have concerted so *prudent an Alliance*, and employ'd our *Fleets* so successfully in its Defence, it will ever be surrender'd by *Treaty*, or given up by *Connivance*; for if That were intended, what occasion could there be for the Formality of a *Siege*, and for sacrificing so many brave Lives on both Sides to no Purpose? Or, what can be more monstrous, than to imagine that, after we have made such a glorious Bustle with our *Fleets* and *Armies*, and convinced our Enemies that they

they cannot wrest it out of our Hands by *Force*, we should make a *free Gift* of such an inestimable Jewel, and undo all the Work of above *twenty Years*, in a Fit of good Humour?

It cannot surely be expected that we should always be the Bubbles of *Europe*, and grow such proverbial Tools in *Negotiation* as constantly to lose in the *Cabinet*, what we gain in the *Field*, at the useless Expence of our Blood and Treasure, and continually suffer by *Victory* and *Success*.

No, I thank God, Experience hath taught us more Wit, and Providence hath given us more Honesty; so that we have the justest Reason, for the future, to expect that the *British* Arms will be employ'd only in the Cause of *Britain*; that we shall fight only our *own Quarrels*; defend our *own Rights*; and let our Enemies have the Glory of becoming the *heroic Dupes* and *Quixot-Champions* for the Liberties of Mankind.

With what uncommon Joy, Exultation and Triumph must it fill the Heart of every honest *Briton*, when he reflects on the royal Warmth, with which his Majesty had the Goodness to recommend to his Parliament the Support of *Gibraltar*; justly calling it of *infinite Advantage* and *Security* to our *Trade* and *Commerce*; when he considers the remarkable Zeal and Vigour, which both Houses expressed in their Concurrence with his Majesty's Recommendation; and that extraordinary Spirit of Loyalty and Resolution, which his dutiful Subjects have display'd in their *ADDRESSES*, upon this Occasion, from all Parts of the Kingdom; not only professing their cheerful Acquiescence under those Burthens, which they feel at present, but their Willingness to submit to much greater; and *some* even to give up *all*, and sacrifice their *Lives* and *Fortunes*, in the strictest Sense, to the Welfare of their Country, and the Confusion of his Majesty's Enemies?

There

There never was a more hearty and general *Unanimity* between any Prince and both Houses of Parliament; or between the united States of the Legislature, and the united Voice of the whole People, than what has discover'd itself on the present Occasion.

To This let us add the * *Steadiness* and *Fidelity* of the present Ministry; who are so far from being suspected of holding any *criminal Correspondence* with our Enemies, that, on the contrary, too much Zeal has been objected against them by some modern *Malig-nants*, who have maliciously insinuated that they have brought a dangerous War upon us by using *unnecessary Precautions*; and providing, in too hostile a Manner, against *Attempts*, which, it is said, were never intend-ed.

As we may therefore depend on the Integrity of the present Administration; so if any future Ministers should, either for *Gain*, or to keep off a *War* (which they shall foolishly draw upon themselves, and not have the Skill to manage) be inclined to make their Peace with a *RESTITUTION* of this *impregnable Bulwark*, we may comfort ourselves with this Reflection, that they will not have the Rashness to do it, nor *dare* to give up a Place, which is so deeply rivetted in the Affections and Esteem of the whole Nation.

Whatever *Promises* therefore some former Ministers may have either made or advised, concerning the *Re-sitution* of this Place, we may be assured that *Those*, at present in Power, will not think themselves obliged to fulfil them; much less to make or advise any other; for they will, no doubt, have more Regard to the *Welfare* of their Country, as well as to their *own In-terest* (which are *equally* concerned) than to encourage or even listen to any Proposals of that Nature.

But, farther; as the Concurrence of his Majesty, both Houses of Parliament, the Ministry, and the

* Vide the Address from Lynn Regis.

whole Kingdom in their Opinion of its Value, will secure it against *Corruption* at Home; so the natural Strength of the Place, the Bravery of our Troops, and the Assistance of our powerful ALLIES, will be sufficient to defend it Abroad; for though, perhaps, it may be the *natural Interest* even of our *Friends* to wish that Fortress in any other Hands; yet I will never believe but that it is their *political Interest* to maintain it in its present Possession; and notwithstanding the Suggestions of evil-minded Men, nothing shall induce me to entertain the least Distrust of their *Fidelity*; especially if it be true that a *great and extraordinary Minister* did make himself answerable for the *French Faith* in a Place, where he could not be understood to trifle or prevaricate.

In This only will their *Fidelity* appear; for as we are sensibly concerned *only* about the Preservation of this Place; so they can have no Opportunity of demonstrating their religious Observation of Treaties so much, as by contributing their utmost and immediate Assistance towards raising the *Siege* and defeating the Attempts of our Enemies.

I have, in this Paper, purposely declined to enter into the Particulars of the *Importance* of Gibraltar, designing them for another Paper or two, which shall be published very speedily, in order to animate the Zeal of my Countrymen in its Defence, and confirm them in that high Opinion of its Value, which they have so justly conceived.

In the mean time I may, I hope, take the Liberty to apply the memorable Sentence of Sir RICHARD STEELE, concerning the *Demolition* of Dunkirk, to the present Occasion; since *the British Nation could not more justly expect the Demolition of that Place, than it now does the vigorous Defence and Preservation of GIBRALTAR.*

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Monday,